

Franklin County Children Services is dedicated to ensuring that children are safe and living in stable homes. **Foster care and adoption** enable children to move beyond problems to brighter tomorrows.



FOSTER / ADOPT

Many foster and adoptive parents are needed for children.

Won't you help?



You Can Make a Difference in the Life of a Child...

Franklin County Children Services is asking couples and individuals who care about the well-being of children to consider becoming foster or adoptive parents. **Call 614-341-6060 for additional information or to register for the free training.**

Foster parents are a bridge over troubled water for children who have been abused or neglected and need a temporary home.

Adoptive parents provide stability and permanence to children in need. They provide new beginnings and new dreams for waiting children.



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families


Franklin County
Children Services
Protecting Children by Strengthening Families.

Foster Care and Adoption
855 West Mound Street
Columbus, OH 43223
614-341-6060

www.franklincountyohio.gov/children_services For more information, call **614-341-6060**

Today, as you wonder how you can make a difference in the life of a child, know that children who are abused and neglected can't do it alone...



Foster parents provide temporary care for children whose families are experiencing a crisis. Most often the goal of foster care is to reunify children with their birth families. The job of fostering has some specific licensing requirements, including training.



Foster parents are licensed by and work with Franklin County Children Services to help ensure children are safe and have the homes they need. The desire to help children is one of the most important attributes a foster parent can bring to the job.

Financial support is provided. Although foster parents need to have sufficient income to meet their own basic needs, all foster families are reimbursed for the cost of having children in their homes.

Adoption

Adoption is the permanent, legal transfer of all parental rights and responsibilities from one family to another family. Adoptive parents have the same rights and responsibilities as parents whose children are born to them. Adoption is the first step to a lifelong commitment of sharing your life with a child.

Homestudy

The homestudy is a process of education and self-evaluation. During the homestudy, prospective foster and adoptive parents will explore their beliefs, attitudes and coping skills. During the homestudy process, Franklin County Children Services will conduct criminal background checks, as well as verify medical, employment and financial records.

The Match

The length of time it takes to be matched with a child largely depends on the special characteristics of children you may be able to parent. A family who demonstrates the ability to parent a child with many special needs may not wait very long until a child is placed with them.



Placement

Once a child is placed with you, you become responsible for his or her care.

The requirements to foster and adopt are simple...

Requirements

Applicants must...

- Be at least 21 years old.
- Can be married, single, widowed or divorced. If married, it should be for at least one year.
- Be residents of Franklin County or reside in one of the following contiguous counties: Fairfield, Madison, Delaware, Licking, Pickaway or Union.
- Have enough bedroom space for a foster or adoptive child. The child must have his or her permanent bed.
- Be healthy and emotionally stable.
- Have adequate income to meet the current family's needs. You don't have to be rich; however you must have enough income to meet your monthly expenditures.

The Process

Training: Prospective foster and adoptive parents participate in educational sessions in order to learn more about the children in need of care, as well as to determine the parents' strengths.

Sessions...

- Explore foster care and adoption from the child's point of view.
- Describe the needs of children within the foster care system.
- Help parents develop realistic expectations.
- Build confidence to parent a waiting child.
- Teach skills to help abused and neglected children form attachments and cope with separation from their birth families.



**Call 614-341-6060
because you believe
All Kids Count!!**